What Is Claimed Is:

5

15

20

25

1. A system for acquiring semiconductor process status information, comprising:

an equipment server for sending a start command according
to a first protocol;

- a computer system server connected to the equipment server for converting the start command from the first protocol to a second protocol and outputting the converted start command;
- a protocol converter connected to the computer system server for converting the start command from the second protocol to a third protocol and outputting the converted command according to the third protocol;
 - an AD/DA module connected to the protocol converter for converting the start command from the third protocol to an analog signal and outputting the converted command;

 - wherein the AD/DA module converts the semiconductor process status information from the analog signal to the third protocol and outputs the converted information to the protocol converter; the protocol converter converts the semiconductor process status information from the third protocol to the second protocol and outputs the converted information to the computer system server; and the computer system server outputs the converted information to the equipment server.

15

25

- 2. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the status information comprises temperature, pressure, flow rate, consistency, rotational speed, voltage value, or electric current value.
- The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein standard voltage value input of the semiconductor process status information are $\pm 15 \text{mV}$, $\pm 50 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{mV}$, $\pm 150 \text{mV}$, $\pm 500 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{mV}$, ± 1
- 4. The system, as claimed in claim 1, wherein standard current input of the semiconductor equipment status information is 0~20mA or $\pm~4~20\text{mA}$.
 - 5. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein standard direct sensor input of the semiconductor equipment status information is thermocouple (J, K, T, E, R, S, B type) or RTD (Pt, Ni, Balco).
 - 6. The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein standard digital input of the semiconductor equipment status information is high or low (0/1).
- 7. A system for acquiring semiconductor process status 20 information, comprising:
 - an equipment server for outputting a start command according to a HSMS protocol;
 - a computer system server connected to the equipment server for converting the start command from the HSMS protocol to a RS232 protocol and outputting the converted command;
 - a protocol converter connected to the computer system server for converting the start command from the RS232

Client's ref.: TSMC2003-0184

5

File: 0503-9984usf / Frank Lin / Kevin

protocol to a RS485 protocol and outputting the converted command;

- an AD/DA module connected to the protocol converter for converting the start command from the RS485 command to an analog signal and outputting the converted command;
- an external sensor connected to the AD/DA module for acquiring semiconductor equipment status information as initiated by the start command;
- wherein the AD/DA module converts the semiconductor process 10 status information from the analog signal to the RS485 protocol and outputs the converted information to the protocol converter; the protocol converter converts the semiconductor process status information from the 15 RS485 protocol to the RS232 protocol and outputs the converted information to the computer system server; and the computer system server outputs semiconductor process status information to the equipment server.
- 8. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the status information comprises temperature, pressure, flow rate, consistency, rotational speed, voltage value, or electric current value.
- 9. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein standard voltage value input of the status information is $\pm 15 \text{mV}$, $\pm 50 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{mV}$, $\pm 150 \text{mV}$, $\pm 500 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{mV}$, $\pm 150 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{$
 - 10. The system, as claimed in claim 7, wherein standard current input of the semiconductor equipment status information is \pm 0~20mA or \pm 4~20mA.

- 11. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein standard direct sensor input of the semiconductor equipment status information is thermocouple (J, K, T, E, R, S, B type) or RTD (Pt, Ni, Balco).
- 12. The system as claimed in claim 7, wherein standard digital input of the semiconductor equipment status information is high or low (0/1).
 - 13. A method for acquiring semiconductor process status information, comprising the steps of:
- a tool application program outputting a start command according to a first protocol;
 - converting the start command from the first protocol to a second protocol and outputting the converted start command;
- converting the start command from the second protocol to a third protocol and outputting the converted command according to the third protocol;
 - converting the start command from the third protocol to an analog signal and outputting the converted command;
- activation of an external sensor by the start command;

25

- acquiring semiconductor equipment status information from the external sensor;
- converting the semiconductor process status information to the third protocol and outputting the converted information according to the third protocol;
- converting the semiconductor process status information from the third protocol to the second protocol and outputting the converted information according to the second protocol;

10

converting the semiconductor process status information from the second protocol to the first protocol; and outputting the semiconductor process status information to an equipment server according to the first server.

- 5 14. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first protocol is HSMS protocol, the second protocol is RS232 protocol and the third protocol is RS485 protocol.
 - 15. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the status information comprises temperature, pressure, flow rate, consistency, rotational speed, voltage value, or electric current value.
 - 16. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein standard voltage value input of the status information is $\pm 15 \text{mV}$, $\pm 50 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{mV}$, $\pm 150 \text{mV}$, $\pm 500 \text{mV}$, $\pm 100 \text{mV}$, ± 100
- 17. The method, as claimed in claim 13, wherein standard current input of the semiconductor equipment status information is \pm 0~20mA or \pm 4~20mA.
- 18. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein standard direct sensor input of the semiconductor equipment status information is thermocouple (J, K, T, E, R, S, B type) or RTD (Pt, Ni, Balco).
 - 19. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein standard digital input of the semiconductor equipment status information is high or low (0/1).